should also be required to have passed the Hospital Assistant's Test and special tests relating to sanitation. Propaganda work in matters of public health should be made an integral part of their daily work. They should be made responsible for notifying to Government from time to time the conditions of public health in their respective areas and also the measures that were called for, for the preservation of public health in those areas. They should further be required to render any urgent medical aid that they found necessary in the course of their tours, besides which they should devote themselves heart and soul to the combating of epidemics whenever there was an outbreak.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kesavan Tampi, the whole subject of improving the arrangements for securing public health in Travancore has so impressed the Government that, as you are aware, they have made special arrangements with the Rockefeller Foundation for organising public health work in the State. The representative of the Rockefeller Foundation is expected here early in March and I hope very soon afterwards we shall be able to take up seriously the question of so reorganising the department as to ensure not merely the normal working of the department being put on a better basis but also for adequate arrangements being made to meet such epidemics as cholera and plague.

51. Medical relief.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Member, Pathanapuram taluk*) said that there was no exaggeration in saying that the majority of the population of 44 lakhs in Travancore were, due to reasons like poverty and bad climatic conditions, stricken with various kinds of diseases. It was doubtful whether there was any country in which there were as many cases of leprosy, malaria, and elephantiasis as Travancore. No amount of money spent by Government for providing an efficient system of medical relief would therefore be too much for Travancore.

The most suitable system of medical relief, so far as Travancore was concerned, was the Ayurvedic system. It was far better than all other systems. For the popularisation of this system of treatment, Government should spend more liberally than at present. It was absolutely necessary that there should be at least one Vaidyasala for each pakuthi. But this consummation could be reached only by opening at least 250 more Vaidyasalas.

The constitution of the Ayurveda Department also stood in need of change. A few grant-in-aid Vaidyans, a Director and a few subordinates whose sole business was probably to pass the bills and to check the registers of these Vaidyans, these were the chief features of the department at present. There was one very useful institution in the department, namely the Ayurveda Pharmacy, but it was curiously enough abolished a few years back. With the abolition of that institution, spurious medicines and irresponsible druggists had flooded the

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market. It was high time that the old pharmacy was restored and arrangements made for the proper distribution of medicines from that institution at reasonable prices as of old.

There was at present only one Inspector in the Ayurveda Department. He had to run about the whole length and breadth of Travancore and inspect the various Vaidyasalas. This was not conducive to efficiency. There should be two Inspectors, each in charge of a range, the northern range and the southern range, and they should be made responsible for the inspection of the Vaidyasalas in their respective areas.

An Ayurvedic herbarium should be maintained by Government, where the students of the Ayurveda College should be given practical training in the identification of medicinal herbs.

As regards Vaidyans it was regrettable to find Government awarding grants-in-aid to persons who had not even seen the inside of a school. It was in order to provide a class of well-trained Vaidyans in the place of the old quack physicians that Government were maintaining an Ayurveda College at Trivandrum. But the Director had recently issued an order providing for the recognition of unqualified persons also as proficient Vaidyans. This order had produced great discontent among the qualified Vaidyans all over the State. The order regarding the grant of recognition to unqualified Vaidyans should therefore be withdrawn and instructions should be issued for appointing only candidates holding proper examination qualifications to the various posts in the department. The system of awarding grants-in-aid to Vaidyans should also be abolished and it should be replaced by one of regular salaries. The various Vaidyans should be treated as regular officers of the Ayurveda Department with pay, pension, leave and allowances in the same way as the officers of other departments.

An examination of the prescription registers of the Vaidyans would show that they were not following any uniform method of treatment. A few drugs sometimes bottled and labelled, sometimes not, and a few jars—these were the equipments with which not a few of them were managing to draw grants-in-aid from Government under the guise of keeping Vaidyasalas. If such frauds were to cease, Government should themselves supply medicines to the Vaidyasalas and instructions should be issued to the Vaidyans as to the way in which each medicine should be administered. But before Government could take upon themselves the distribution of medicines, they should first restore the Ayurveda Pharmacy.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayana Pillai Padmanabha Pillai, as regards the establishment of more *Vaidyasalas*, it is only last year that I think we reached the full sanctioned number of 120 and the question whether any further increase is necessary and can be made is shortly to come before the Government for consideration. The Government are awaiting the report of the Ayurveda Department.

Then you recommended the reform of the Ayurveda Department. That also will shortly come up for consideration.

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In regard to appointment of Vaidyans on pay instead of grants-in-aid, there are many practical difficulties in the way and apart from that, the grant-in-aid system is working quite satisfactorily. That being the case, there is no immediate need to adopt your suggestion.

You advocate the supply of medicines from a central pharmacy. You have heard a member who said that the entire system of Ayurvedic treatment is based on the immediate preparation of herbs and drugs. The nature of Ayurvedic preparations is such that often they cannot be kept and stored to be utilised as occasion arises. These are all difficulties in adopting that suggestion of yours. I have no doubt that in course of time modern methods will be applied in the preparation of drugs and extracts and so on, so that it will become possible in due course to try to adopt your suggestion.

52. Reform of the Ayurveda Department.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Member, Kottayam taluk, Group II*) prefaced his representation with a number of quotations from Western authors in appreciation of Ayurveda. The Ayurvedic system, he said, was admitted to be an excellent system of treatment. In medical science, none had so far excelled Charaka. It was his system of treatment that was prevalent in Kerala.

The Travancore Government was spending about 8 lakhs of Rupees every year on the Medical Department. Much of this money was spent on the purchase of medicines from foreign countries. But there were several medicines in the country which could be used in the place of these. There were several books dealing with this subject. The member illustrated this point with several examples.

In regard to the instruction imparted in the Ayurveda College, the member suggested that the students should be given practical training in the identification of medicines. They should be shown specimens of each drug and they should be able to identify any medicine.

The period of instruction in the college should be shortened in the case of those candidates who had general educational qualifications of a superior kind. A graduate in Arts should, for instance, be required to undergo only a three year's course.

The salaries of the Principal and the teachers of the Ayurveda College should be enhanced.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Govinda Pillai, I think that if the members of this Assembly and the officers behind me had an opportunity to listen to a dozen such representations we should all feel qualified to be Ayurvedic doctors ourselves.

You expound the theory of Ayurvedic treatment with so much lucidity and so much learning that it makes your representation a very impressive disquisition indeed.

In regard to the position of the Ayurveda Department as a whole, the number of dispensaries and all those other matters which you had not time to state, what I said to the previous member will also bear upon what you stated and what you contemplated saying.

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